

OPC Bulletin

Balkans: On the Firing Line

BY ROGER COHEN

Cohen, an OPC member, is based in Zagreb, Croatia for The New York Times. He filed this dispatch from Belgrade.

I was buying bananas recently at the market in Pale, the mountain resort transformed into the self-styled capital of the Bosnian Serbs, when a young fellow in jeans approached. "Robert Cohen?" he inquired.

"No, Roger," I replied.

"Well, you're under arrest anyway."

Whisked off to a small room overseen by a big soldier, I was soon being interrogated by a couple of the henchmen of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Their questions were translated by a young woman with a singularly vicious smirk. Was I not aware that the American media are banned from Bosnian Serb territory? How had I reached Pale? Why do Americans always blame the Serbs for everything?



Why did I not buy my bananas in Sarajevo?

It went on for over an hour. Then, a decision: I was to be expelled from Bosnian Serb territory immediately. It

was dusk, not the best time to drive across the line at Sarajevo Airport back

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September Luncheon: U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World

On Wednesday Sept. 21, the Overseas Press Club will launch its 1994-95 program year at a luncheon where top foreign affairs experts from Time magazine will debate the vital question of America's role in the world. Appearing will be World Editor Johanna McGeary, senior foreign affairs writer Bruce Nelan, and Washington-based diplomatic correspondent Jeff McAllister.

With one of their former colleagues expected to become Secretary of State, the foreign affairs experts at Time have a demonstrated track record of influencing American foreign policy. This panel discussion will come amid building controversies over U.S. policy toward Cuba and Haiti, North Korea, and many other regions of the world. Aside from these specific crises, Americans also are debating whether they have a responsibility to use force in distant places like Bosnia and Rwanda or to concentrate on advancing U.S. economic interests.

Moderating the panel will be OPC award-winning ABC News Correspondent Karen Burnes, who has reported from the Persian Gulf, the former Soviet Union, Israel, and elsewhere.

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Johanna McGeary



Bruce Nelan



Jeff McAllister

The Philippines: Making a Comeback?

On Wednesday Sept. 28, Philippines Foreign Secretary Roberto R. Romulo will address the club at 5:30 p.m. in the Tudor. Long seen as the sick man of booming East Asia, the Philippines is attempting to stage an economic and political comeback under President Fidel V. Ramos. The government, for example, has made dramatic strides in easing the power brownouts that afflicted Manila. But can the whole country be turned around?

Romulo, the son of the famed Filipino diplomat Carlos Romulo, is a fluent and witty speaker of English, with degrees from Ateneo de Manila University and Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Unlike many diplomats, he has extensive experience in the private sector, serving until 1990 as a member of the board of IBM Philippines Inc.

With President Clinton scheduled to travel to the region to attend the APEC summit leaders, Romulo will be able to offer invaluable insights on the subject of U.S. and European roles in the region since he has played a prominent part in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN.)

The event is free to members. Non-members: \$5.00. Please call the OPC office 212-983-4655 so we can estimate numbers.

Why You Should Support the OPC

I was fiercely proud to work for United Press International for 10 years, from state capitols to world hotspots. Even though the "bad guys" at The Associated Press outgunned us in covering most everything, we relied on energy, guts, and snappy writing to give them competitive fits. We had a burning commitment to cover the world in the most professional way.

So it was profoundly disturbing to see that fine institution undergo recurring crises and finally feel compelled to leave.

Today, as the new president of the Overseas Press Club, I worry that a similar process of deterioration is afflicting the entire profession of covering important events and trends in faraway places. Yes, there are several fine news organizations that are still gearing up to provide financial and business information or trying to create global television networks.

But against a backdrop of Perot-nista isolationism, it seems the broader trend is one in which American policy-makers and Americans themselves are deprived of the analysis and understanding they need to chart a course in the world.

Consider what's happened to the major television networks. In pursuit of ever higher profits and higher ratings,

they've essentially abandoned consistent international news coverage, relying much too heavily on flying in the big names for big events only. The emphasis is overwhelmingly on the titillating, the mindless, the entertaining. The prospect of Disney owning CBS News, for example, has to send chills down the spine of any serious newsperson.

Or have you picked up a daily newspaper lately? They've gone so soft and fluffy, with so many pretty color photos, that some of them resemble comic books. No wonder they're having trouble attracting readers. Yet when publishers get together, they seem to think that the future lies in more fluff and more multimedia gimmicks. Is anyone thinking about how to obtain and print news that provokes people? It may be old-fashioned to say, but I still feel that if you hit 'em where they live, they'll buy.

Or have you thought about why a handful of columnists—Safire, Elliott House, Krauthammer, Will—nearly

provoked a war with North Korea? Not a single major American newspaper or television organization maintains a full-fledged staff position on the Korean peninsula. That has created a situation where columnists writing in the splendid isolation of the salons of Cambridge or the Upper West Side or Georgetown, almost persuaded the Clinton Administration to launch military attacks on North Korea. Only someone who has stood at the DMZ understands that that would trigger a flow of blood for many years to come. At UPI, we used to have a rule that we had to get a correspondent to the scene of an event, or at least a reasonable backup position nearby, before we could run the story with a dateline. Now the "experts" can pontificate from half a world away—and be listened to.

In short, the profession is under assault not only from evil foreign governments, but from pressures within. We have met the enemy...

What's the point of venting this Mencken-like spleen? It's simply to say that this profession of covering the world is critically important, and those of us involved in it as editors, correspondents, producers, or executives have a responsibility, as well as a self-interest, to defend it. The OPC also

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Bill Holstein

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 1994-1995

OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202
Monthly except August.
\$24/year included in dues. Copyright © 1994
Overseas Press Club of America.

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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

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invites support from companies and governments willing to promote the highest quality of public discourse.

The scale of OPC activity is already quite broad:

—Our awards have gained in stature over the years and have helped shape the careers of hundreds of fine journalists.

—Our Freedom of the Press Committee is active around the world.

—Through the OPC Foundation, we are increasing the number of college scholarships we grant from two to four. Other programs aimed at college students are expanding.

—This monthly Bulletin plays a role in linking like-minded professionals around the world. Our events are another way to "network" informally.

—Aside from offering discount privileges at the renovated Tudor in New York, we have reciprocal privileges with the National Press Club in Washington and relationships with other clubs in London, Tokyo, Moscow, Frankfurt and elsewhere.

—The quality of our programs in New York have steadily improved. The 50 year anniversary of D-Day luncheon in June, with Walter Cronkite and Andy Rooney, was a smashing success. We're gearing up for another strong season.

—We've reached out to other clubs and organizations like the Deadline Club, Committee to Protect Journalists, Center for Communication, Foreign Press Association, and U.N. Correspondent's Association to ease the fragmentation that afflicts the business.

So support us! Joining is one obvious way. Competing for awards is another, as is taking part in the judging panels. Attend a program or two. Give us news of transfers and promotions. Contribute articles to the Bulletin and our annual Dateline publication. Consider us a tool that can be used to defend and promote what's most important to you.

—BILL HOLSTEIN

BALKANS

Continued from p. 1

into Bosnian government territory, but my request to stay overnight was rejected. So it was back to the dismal vestiges of the Sarajevo Holiday Inn.

Shortly after this escapade, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, a gaunt figure who somehow always reminds me of Lear on the cliffs railing against the world, cornered me in the relative comfort of Geneva's Hotel Intercontinental. The occasion was one of those sterile but costly get-togethers, still widely referred to as negotiations between the warring parties in Bosnia.

Mr. Silajdzic was not happy with me at all.

"How dare you criticize the Moslem victims of genocide?" he asked by way of an opening gambit. "How dare you suggest that we are war-mongers?"

I was not precisely sure what had offended the prime minister, but I think it must have been my reference to the 16-member Bosnian delegation living it up at Geneva's \$400 a night Hotel Richemond for four days while showing a dogged reluctance to put in an appearance at the peace talks.

From Geneva, it was back to Zagreb where a pile of correspondence awaited me from something called the Croatian Anti-Defamation League, or some such. These letters berated me for being colossally unfair to the Croats by referring to past anti-Semitic writings of

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and being obsessed by the puppet Nazi Croatian state of Ante Pavelic during World War II.

These incidents would scarcely be worth relating were they not indicative of a depressing fact about the conflict in the former Yugoslavia: each ethnic group is so convinced of having all the truth on its side, and so loaded with historical ammunition to vindicate its position, that open discussion tends to be fruitless and open journalism disturbing.

But of course, truth is not absolute. The Moslems in Bosnia have suffered, at the hands of the Serbs, the worst systematic atrocities in Europe since those inflicted on the Jews by Nazi Germany: concentration camps, mass executions, and massive evictions of civilians from their homes. But that does not mean that the Bosnian Government is necessarily enlightened, or that the Serbs of Bosnia do not have a case (which they grossly misuse), or that innocent Serbs have not also suffered, in lesser numbers, at the hands of Moslems. The correspondent, as the great French journalist Albert Londres once said, must not hesitate "to place the pen in the wound."

Seeking out the facts is not easy in Bosnia. The roads are lousy. People shoot at you. Each checkpoint requires a different pass. Medieval battles or monarchs or borders are regularly

invoked as irrefutable evidence that a hill is Serb or Moslem or Croat. The hill in question, of course, remains silent.

The place can be utterly oppressive and sometimes it seems America just wants to forget about it. But, Haiti and health bills notwithstanding, Bosnia and Sarajevo will not go away. Put bluntly, their tragedy questions the values of Western society and poses crucial security issues for the post-Communist world: America has so far failed to meet these challenges and, still today, can only turn away at its peril.

I would close with two images. The first of suffering: Moslem women refugees, in room after room in Sarajevo, mourning lost husbands, lost sons, lost brothers, and struggling, then failing, to hold back their tears. The second of hope: the rivers of Bosnia—the Miljacka, the Neretva, the Drina and countless others—whose irrepressible vitality, beauty and force always suggest to me that renewal and life must one day prevail.

Cohen won an OPC Citation of Excellence in 1987 for his coverage of Third World debt. Before joining the Times, Cohen was a correspondent for Reuters based in London from 1979 to 1983 and then served as South American bureau chief and chief correspondent in Rome for The Wall Street Journal.

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

AUSTRALIA: A book published in Australia by his son says that the late Richard Hughes, once doyen of the foreign press corps in Asia, served as



David E. Sanger

a double agent who passed false information supplied by Britain's MI6 to Soviet intelligence agents. In his book, "Don't You Sing," Dick Hughes Jr. says that the Russians approached his father in Tokyo in the early 1950s, complimented him on his dispatches to The Sunday Times of London and offered to pay him for information. The elder Hughes reported the contact in a letter to Ian Fleming, the James Bond author who was then foreign manager of The Sunday Times. Fleming contacted MI6, which set up the arrangement to pass on the false information. Hughes operated his ruse until the early 1960s. He was one of Australia's most famous journalists and a permanent fixture at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondent's Club. Until his death in 1984, he took great delight in ordering "Russian water," his code phrase for vodka. One can only wonder whether duped Soviet intelligence agents would have been amused.

BEIJING: Ruth Youngblood is new bureau manager for United Press International in Beijing, replacing David Schweisberg, who died of a heart attack last November. Michael Diciccio, UPI's Manila bureau chief, replaces Youngblood as Tokyo manager.

FRANKFURT: Laurinda Keys, AP's news editor in Stockholm, moves to Frankfurt as news editor for Germany.

She had a previous foreign posting in Johannesburg.

LONDON: Bryan Brumley, who worked for the AP in Tokyo, Warsaw, and Moscow, had been named an assistant international editor, based in London. His main assignment will be to help launch AP's new television service this fall.

LOS ANGELES: Murray Fromson, a former AP and CBS News correspondent in Asia and the U.S., is the new interim director of the School of Journalism at the University of Southern California. Fromson joined AP after serving as a combat correspondent for Pacific Stars & Stripes during the Korean War.

NEW YORK: Former Wall Street Journal people are on the march. Norman Pearlstine, former Page One editor and then media investment banker, will become editor-in-chief of Time Inc. Meanwhile, John M. Geddes, a former national news editor at the Journal who left to join Pearlstine's Friday Holdings L.P., has been named business-financial editor of The New York Times. He replaces William Stockton, who quit earlier in the year.

Fortune magazine, under new managing editor Walter Kiechel 3rd, has decided to fold the international edition of the magazine. That means readers around the world will get essentially the same U.S.-written magazine. It also is closing international bureaus. Among the last to close its doors is Tokyo.

Losers in the power struggle to succeed legendary Marshall Loeb were Allan T. Demaree, one of the magazine's two executive editors, who will now take a sabbatical. Ann M. Morrison, the other executive editor, landed on her feet with an assignment in Hong Kong to be managing editor of

Asia Week, another Time publication. Husband Don Morrison, from Time, also moves to Hong Kong as Time's regional editor.

Elsewhere in New York, former Smart Money Senior Editor Ellyn Spragins has joined Newsweek as a Contributing Editor. She writes the lead article on investment and finance for the magazine's monthly personal finance section.

PARIS: Marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Paris from Nazi occupation, OPC member Sam Waagenaar described in a 2,500-word article how he, Jack Lieb of Metrotone News and Rod Broderick of International News Photos "liberated the Grand Boulevards on that day," Aug. 25,



Ellyn Spragins

1944. Waagenaar's article was published in a catalog accompanying an exposition of news pictures displayed at Paris City Hall this summer. Among the photos are shots by Waagenaar and OPCer John G.

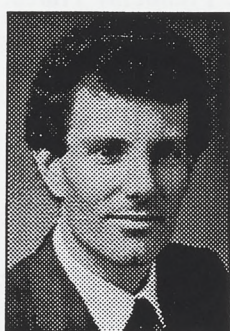
Morris, then with Life Magazine and now living in Paris. Waagenaar is trying to locate Lieb and Broderick. His address is Ros Spier Huis, 2 Esseboom, 1251 Laren (N.H.), Holland.

John L. Phillips, an editor at the International Herald Tribune since 1978, died in July in Paris after a long battle against leukemia at the age of 55. His obituary in the IHT praised him as a "lively writer and meticulous editor."

TOKYO: A big turnover is underway. Bill Powell, bureau chief for Newsweek, has departed for Berlin for Russian language training, enroute to a

posting in Moscow. No replacement has been named.

The New York Times has transferred bureau chief David E. Sanger back to the States, completing a five-year assignment. He is replaced by Nicholas D. Kristof, who was Beijing



Nicholas D. Kristof

bureau chief from November 1988 to October 1993. He has spent the interim studying Japanese and writing a new book on China. At a farewell for Sanger at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan in July, Sanger joked: "With the yen at 98 to the dollar and the country gone socialist, I can't explain it any longer. So I should leave." He's tipped for higher things at the Times.

Business Week's Neil Gross, a highly respected technology correspondent, has returned to New York after a long assignment in Japan. He is replaced by fellow BW staffer Larry Holyoke

John Roderick, who covered China for The Associated Press, both as a resident correspondent and as a China watcher based in Tokyo, is out with a new book. "I have often wondered whether the American view of China might have been different if we had been allowed to report on the scene from 1949 to 1979," Roderick writes in his book, "Covering China: The Story of an American Reporter from Revolutionary Days to the Deng Era" (Chicago-Imprint Publications). Roderick, now 80, reported from China before the 1949 Communist victory; returned to Beijing with a U.S. table tennis team in 1971, and reopened the AP bureau in Beijing in 1979. Now retired, Roderick lives in a 260-year-old farmhouse in Kamakura, Japan.

LETTERS

GERMAN TRAVEL WRITING

Receive my OPC Bulletin regularly with much interest.

I am looking for some U.S. outlets for my travel articles as well as sports coverage, i.e. golf, tennis, yacht/sailing and skiing. I have been making the top German resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in the Bavarian Alps, my European base. My research has kept me on the go. Exploring the German Danube from Passau to Regensburg and onto many historic cities ending in Ulm has been fascinating. Back home, this little town is celebrating its 700th anniversary!

Katherine Sandford Horkan
Maxstadtstrasse 6, D-82467
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
Tel 08821.1305

TOUGH TIMES IN BERLIN

Thank you very much for your kind and generous offer of establishing closer relations between the Overseas Press Club and the Berliner Pressekonferenz. The board feels deeply honored. Unfortunately however, most members of the board feel that we do not quite fit your bill.

The Berliner Pressekonferenz organizes and supervises press conferences

on political and current news events. That's all we do. We have no club anymore, no dining facilities, nothing. In the old days, preunification that is, there used to be a Journalistenklub, out of which we operated and which would have been an organisation capable of offering you at least some club facilities. But due to the cuts in funding from the unified city of Berlin, that facility was closed down at the beginning of this year.

Therefore, the majority of the board feels that there is nothing at this point that we can offer to you in return for what you have offered. As a former California resident and Stanford graduate, or course I regret the fact that we will not be able to establish ties at this point. But maybe in the future.

Marianne Heuwagen, Vice President,
Berliner Pressekonferenz
and correspondent for Suddeutsche
Zeitung, Französische Strasse 47
10117 Berlin, Germany

Editors's Note: Even if the two clubs cannot establish formal relations, Marianne is one of the most plugged-in journalists in Berlin and makes for an excellent contact for visiting journalists.

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Congrats to New Members

The Club is delighted to announce the admission of two highly talented journalists with years of international experience.

Pranay Gupte globe-trotted for The New York Times from 1970 to 1984 before joining Newsweek International as a columnist in 1985. He has reported extensively from Africa and India, in particular. Currently, in addition to his columnist duties, he is editor-in-chief of The Earth Times, based in New York.

Sheila Cole Nilva has also reported recently from Brazil, Tokyo, and Singapore for publications such as Modern Bride and Brides Magazine. Prior to that, she has written for The New York Times travel section, Newsday Travel, the New York Post, New York Daily News, and Harpers Bazaar from datelines around the world. She is a resident of New York.

Welcome to you both!

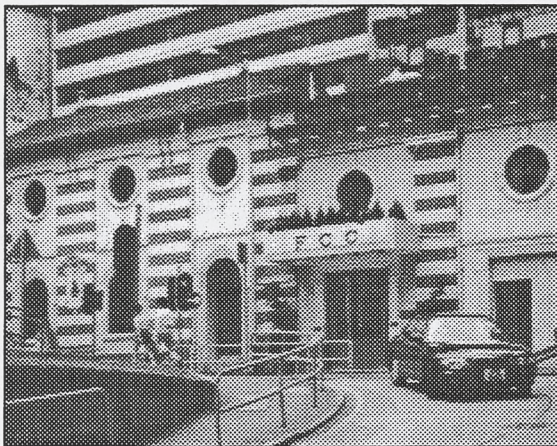
AN ASIAN SURVEY

I had the privilege of traveling to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, and Shanghai this summer. Here are some notes on people and places.

—BH

At the very time that Asia is exploding economically, Western news organizations seem to be having an increasingly difficult time covering the region. The big reason is raw economics. The high yen has made it killer-expensive to maintain staff correspondents in Tokyo, and real estate frenzies are driving up costs in Seoul, Hong Kong, and even Shanghai. Freelancers and stringers, who once could be depended on to fill in the gaps, are not as available, either. Faced with mounting costs, they are under pressure to either take full time jobs with those Western or Asian news organizations that are revving up—or get out of town.

All of which means foreign correspondents clubs in Hong Kong and Tokyo—among the best in the world—are under pressure. The Seoul press contingent is dwindling and that hurts



The Foreign Correspondents Club in Hong Kong.

the Foreign Correspondents Club there as well. Shanghai, in contrast, is a place where Western news organizations are gearing up, but it's unlikely the Chinese authorities would ever allow creation of a formal club.

HONG KONG: The president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong is Carl Goldstein, until recently with the Far Eastern Economic Review. (The inside word is that the old-time Asian experts are unhappy with the

U.S.- and European-based editors that Dow Jones is sending into town.)

FCC Vice President is Simon Holberton of the Financial Times. Upon arrival at the club, I presented my OPC card at the front door and a friendly receptionist promptly issued me a FCC card and invited me to buy chits. Strolling into the bar, I found long-time board member, Hugh Van Es, a veteran photographer, holding down one end of the bar seated next to Saul Lockhart, another institutional fixture. On other visits, Sarah Monks, now with Hong Kong Trade Development Council, hosted me for lunch at one of the FCC's two restaurants.

Perhaps the high moment was visiting the FCC one evening when Charlie Smith was holding court. Smith worked for UPI for many years and we were joined by Paul Anderson, who manages UPI's Asian operations, and his wife Nancy. As in the old days, Smith issues his opinions with a series of Jack Daniels lined up on the bar in front of him, waiting to be consumed.

Although some of the old-time journalist crowd is still around, the broader trend is toward more corporate members. That has changed the membership mix since the days when I belonged in 1979-82.

But the club is still an awfully important institution in Hong Kong, as the Chinese prepare to take control of the British colony in 1997. The FCC already is serving as a rallying point for those journalists who believe freedom of the press must survive. The films and programs that the FCC hosts are a stick in the eye of China's propaganda masters. Because Hong Kong is such an important base for Western news organizations of all descriptions, supporting the FCC is critical to us all. It's more than just a watering hole.

NEXT MONTH: Other Asian destinations.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

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The event will be from noon to 2 p.m. on the 50th Floor of the McGraw-Hill Building, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, at 49th St., in New York.

All four journalists have extensive experience in covering international news and U.S. foreign policy. McGearry spent 10 years as Time's White House correspondent and State Department correspondent as well as a year and a half in Jerusalem. She is the winner of two OPC awards for foreign reporting.

Nelan has been based in Hong Kong, Bonn, Moscow and Johannes-

burg as well as New York and Washington. The third panelist, Jeff McAllister, is diplomatic correspondent in Washington covering the Clinton Administration's foreign policy.

Moderator Burnes reports for "Prime Time Live," "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings," "Nightline" and other ABC News broadcasts. She won an OPC award in 1986 for her coverage of Ethiopia. In addition, she has won two Emmys.

The cost is \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members. Space is limited. Call the club at 212-983-4655 for reservations.

KIDNAP ORDEAL

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malarial symptoms, and only threatened with death one day, when the kidnappers' leader came into the room and, with shaking hands, held a gun on me.

When on the morning of the 20th day, fierce clan fighting engulfed the neighborhood where I was held, my round-the-clock guard, Mohamed, decided we had to flee. Mohamed was a hostage, too, ordered to stay with me always and threatened with death if I escaped.

When I revealed six \$100 bills hidden in my hollow belt, we decided to buy our freedom. Mohamed would pay a friend to bring his car to the house that night when everyone was asleep and drive to the U.S. Embassy several miles away.

Mohamed slipped away at 3 p.m. with the money to make the deal, promising to return by 6:30 p.m. The kidnappers stayed in another nearby house, so a young woman and I were alone in my hideout.

At 5 p.m., I heard a scuffle in the courtyard outside my room. As the footsteps drew closer, I hid in the corner behind the door and peeked through the cracked wood to see several gunmen pushing toward my room.

Mohamed had either betrayed me or been caught, and the kidnappers were coming to kill me, I thought.

But as I tried to shut the door against the advancing men, one of them threw away the shawl hiding his face and said, "Tina! We're your friends."

I opened the door to a familiar face—someone I knew from past Somali visits—and went with the group of smiling young men. As we roared through the streets, my friend explained that clan elders had sent their gunmen to free me.

I don't know what happened to Mohamed, the \$600 or my kidnappers.

LETTERS

Continued from p. 5

WORLD WAR II INQUIRY

I am writing to you to see if you could provide me with information to allow me to contact a woman who was a World War II International News Service correspondent. Her name is/was Lee Carson.

She was with the US Army unit that relieved the POW camp/castle at Colditz, Saxony, Germany, in April of 1945.

She took the only known pictures of the famous Colditz glider that the POWs had made to launch off the roof of the castle.

I have been asked by the members of the Colditz Club in England to get in touch with Lee if at all possible. They are planning their 50th anniversary celebration to be hosted by the Queen Mother next spring.

Thank you.

Gary L. Green

849 Dunnuck, #5

Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Tel: 307-674-6293

WORLD WAR II—ASIA

My new book has sold out its second edition and maybe its third if I can find a new publisher with better distribution facilities.

The book is called "Frankel-y Speaking about World War II in the South Pacific." Rather than having me tell you about it, here is what The New York Times said in a profile in June:

"Mr. Frankel spent three and a half years fighting in the South Pacific. He saw friends blown to bits no more than a few feet from him. He shot at enemy soldiers at close range. And he kept a diary of all that happened—a diary he later turned into a book.

"A former magazine editor, publisher and political speech writer (his clients included Adlai E. Stevenson, Robert F. Kennedy and Walter

Mondale), he felt the need to share his memories in print.

"Among his vivid memories of fighting in the Solomon Islands and in the Philippines are the nights. He wrote: 'Each soldier lies on his back with his jungle knife unsheathed in his clenched fist. The Yank sleeps, but his killer instinct is wide awake.'"

That's a taste. Thanks for all your help in the past.

Stanley E. Frankel

109 Brewster Road

Scarsdale, New York

WORLD WAR II—PARIS

We would like to have photos of American journalists covering World War II for our hotel. We would like photos (Format 30 by 40 only) which reflect the general atmosphere and the working conditions of war correspondents. Eisenhower briefing some journalists is a good example.

If you are willing to provide copies of these photos free of charge, the manager of the hotel will be pleased to offer you one night at the Scribe (bed and breakfast included) for each photo chosen.

You can also mention our exhibition in your next Bulletin and announce to your readers that Hotel Scribe will offer stays to people who have photos of the Hotel before and after the liberation of Paris (one night for each photo chosen).

Anyone interested in our offer should first send photocopies of the photos to our office by fax.

Evelyne Kretz

Public Relations

Hotel Scribe, Paris, France

Phone (1) 42.67.41.69

Fax: (1) 46.22.62.66

KIDNAP ORDEAL IN SOMALIA

Tina Susman, news editor for The Associated Press in Johannesburg, was kidnapped and held hostage for 20 days while on assignment in Somalia. Here is her account, condensed from the AP Log.

I am standing in a dark, concrete closet, with a pit toilet in one corner and a bucket of cold water in another. This is the high point of my day, the one thing I look forward to when I awake in the dark to the shrill cry from a nearby mosque calling Somalis to prayer.

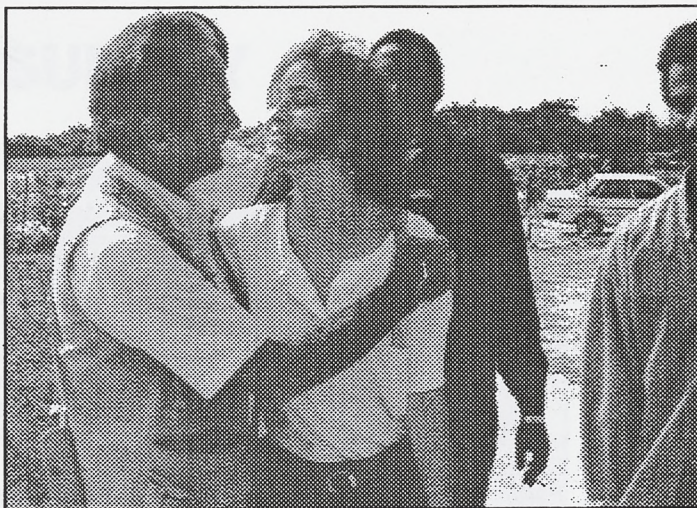
I am a hostage and have been one for 16 days, held by gunmen who see me as a "white jewel"—an American

prize for which someone will surely pay a high price. I'm not so sure—it seems if anyone planned to pay ransom, they'd have done it by now.

Anyway, do I really want these young thugs, including one of the AP's own drivers, to get a reward for their crime?

The answer is no, despite my despair at being held in a room too small to walk, under constant guard by a snoring, belching man who never leaves my side except for my morning trip to the toilet.

I was seized about 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, from the brown



Susman is greeted by AP Nairobi bureau chief Reid G. Miller after her release. Photo by Sayad Azim, who was beaten but left behind during the abduction.

Land Rover that was part of the AP fleet in Mogadishu. I sat in the middle of the back seat, where I felt safest. As usual, AP photographer Sayid Azim and I had two armed guards with us.

A shot rang out. The car stopped. I ducked as a gunfight erupted around us.

"Down, Tina, down!" one of my guards whispered frantically as he pushed my head to the floor and blasted away with his AK-47.

I squeezed my eyes shut, thinking we were being hijacked and waiting for the bullet that would kill me. Only after I was dragged from the car, thrown onto the ground and pulled along the dirt road to another car did I realize that I, not the Land Rover, was the target.

So I began my descent into the horror of Somalia's underworld—a murky mix of dark rooms, shell-shattered compounds, midnight drives down desolate alleys, wild-eyed gunmen, and

bug-infested mattresses that made ordinary daily life in the war-torn, lawless capital seem heavenly by comparison.

I was not tortured or abused. I was fed rice and pasta, given mineral water, provided medicine when I developed

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The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

TIME PANEL
Wednesday,
September 21
Noon-2 PM
McGraw-Hill Building